## ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a water-borne coating composition excellent in smoothness and film appearance.

A water-borne coating composition comprising:

an emulsion resin obtained by emulsion polymerization of an  $\alpha,\beta$ -ethylenically unsaturated monomer mixture

and a urethane compound represented by the general formula (1) or (2):

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$$R^{1}-[N-C-(O-R^{2})_{k}-O-R^{3}]_{j}\cdots(1)$$

wherein the content of said urethane compound is 0.01 to 20% by weight on the solid basis relative to the resin solid in the coating composition.

A method of forming a multilayer coating film comprising: applying a water-borne base coating to an article to be coated and then applying a clear coating thereonto, followed by curing by heating,

wherein said water-borne base coating is the abovementioned water-borne coating composition.